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F Post

By Richard Lebherz

A Rose By Any Other Name

Last fall, Hood College took a daring step. It hired Tom Rose, a bearded, liberal teacher, who had just been involved in acting as the editor for a new book, "Violence In America," published by Bennett Cerf at Random House.

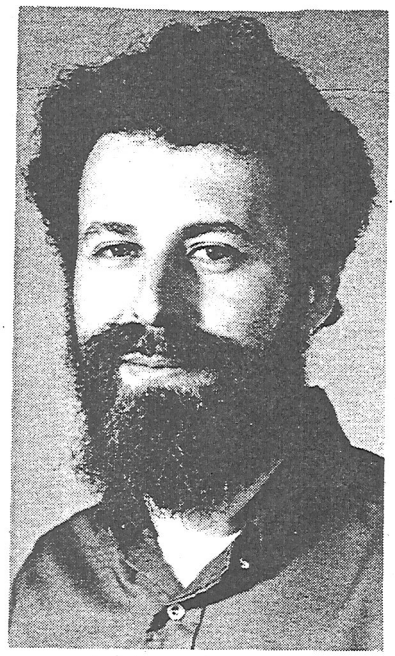
It was a daring step because Hood is essentially staid, and at times even prissy, about its Public Image. Who knows, things may have gone along smoothly, (or almost), if Tom Rose had not made his remarks (which have never been released to the Press by the way), about J. Edgar Hoover during his class at American University in Washington.

The Press picked up the unquotable remark, plus the fact that several of his students just happened to be FBI agents. Hoover refused to permit them to return to Rose's classes, but they finally did. This, notoriety, along with several other, factors about Tom Rose's approach to Sociology, must have contributed to his fate.

Recently, he has been informed by the Hood Administration that he will be, as they would say at Hood, let go at the end of the school year. He will still receive his salary, however, until next September. The reason given the teacher is that Hood must make financial sacrifices, Tom being one of them, (along with John Forsythe, an art teacher, and Earl Bragdon, a history instructor. All are young men by the way. They will be replaced by, what one Hood student calls, "candidates for Medicare."

Last Saturday, out at Bob and Birch Hotz' dinner party, I spied the bearded teacher, so I asked him if what I had heard was so.

"Yes, it is" he said carefully.



Tom Rose Must Go

Was it also true that there had been vibrations not only among the students but among the faculty as well?

"Yes, it is," he responded.

Was it true that the students may even protest against your being let go when they return from Christmas Holidays? (This did occur Monday night by the way on Hood campus.)

"There have been some rumors," he remarked, "to that effect."

Was he being fired because of his remarks he had made about J. Edgar Hoover?

"They say that isn't the reason," he says. "They say it's because they don't have enough money to keep me on."

I asked one of Tom Rose's students what this firing would mean to her.

"I hate to think of having to go back next year to Sociology Class if Tom Rose is not there," she remarks. "His classes were so alive. Most of the other classes are dead and dull. The man who is supposed to take his place is elderly. What does he know about conditions that exist today in America? I hate to think of Mr. Rose leaving. Hood is way behind in its approach to education. I don't think I will be going back to Hood next year. The administration is driving us out gradually because they are afraid of change, or a different point of view. It's sad but it's true."

In this case, to the administration at Hood, a Rose by any other name, would smell even sweeter.